

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A carton ~~for comprising~~ comprising a plurality of similar, substantially cylindrical articles, ~~such a bottles, arranged in rows wherein the carton is of a plurality of panels connected together to form a substantially tubular structure in which the articles are received, the plurality of panels comprising a bottom panel, a first side wall panel, a top panel, and a second side wall panel, and a means the carton further comprising opposed end closure walls for at least partially closing the opposed ends of the carton tubular structure respectively to prevent the articles from being undesirably dislodged, the carton further comprising an a -access means~~ dispensing feature integrally formed ~~in with at least one of the plurality of panels the carton walls for dispensing articles, the access means~~ dispensing feature being defined by an endless tear line which comprises a first weakened line of severance, segment extending completely across the top panel between ~~the opposed ends edges thereof the tubular structure, and a second weakened line of severance segment~~ extending completely across a one of the first and second side wall panels of the carton wall between the opposed ends edges thereof the tubular structure, and by a further weakened line of severance third segment extending in each of the opposed end closure ~~means walls~~ walls between each of the ends of the first and second weakened lines of severance ~~segments~~ segments, the access ~~means~~ dispensing feature providing ~~means an opening~~ an opening for allowing the articles to be accessed ~~therethrough an opening formed when the access means is utilized removed from the carton, and the dispensing feature providing means a retainer~~ a retainer for retaining the articles to prevent ~~them the articles~~ the articles from being inadvertently dislodged when removed from the carton, wherein the ~~access means is structured and articles are~~ access means is structured and articles are arranged such that the carton ~~can be oriented to articles sit on either the bottom panel or its other side panel thereby changing the~~

~~orientation of and such that an axis of each of the articles is disposed substantially perpendicular to the bottom panel.~~

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The carton of claim 19 wherein the second segment~~weakened line of severance~~ extends across the one of said the first and second ~~carton~~ side walls panels along an a tubular axis of the tubular structure.

22. (Currently amended) The carton of claim 19 further comprising a hand-hole punch through ~~means~~ for providing easy access to the dispensing feature.

23. (Previously presented) The carton of claim 19 wherein the bottom panel is larger than the top panel.

24. (Currently amended) The carton of claim 19 wherein each of the ~~means for closing the ends of the cartons~~ end closure walls comprises four end flaps hingedly connected ~~one each~~ to ~~said the~~ top panel, first side wall panel, bottom panel and second side wall panel respectively.

25. (Currently amended) The carton of claim 24 wherein ~~the ones~~ at least two of said ~~the end flaps hingedly connected to said first and second side of the each of the end closure walls~~ include a respective one of the weakened lines of severance~~third segments~~.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) The blank of claim 26 34 in which ~~at least two adjacent panels include transverse lines of weakness which are contiguous~~ the first, second and third segments are connected together to form a single endless tear line when the blank is formed into ~~the a~~ carton.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) The carton of claim 19 wherein the ~~access means~~dispensing feature forms an article dispenser which is provided by comprises a removable portion; defined by the first, second and third segments~~weakened line of severance~~, said ~~weakened line being an endless tear line which includes a~~ first segment extending across said top wall along the tubular axis of the tubular structure, a second segment, extending across said first side wall along the tubular axis, of the carton and a pair of the third segments, formed respectively in said end closure walls to interconnect the first and second segments to form the endless tear line.

30. (Currently amended) The carton of claim 29 wherein each of said end closure ~~wall~~ walls includes a pair of upper and lower end flaps hingedly connected to the top and bottom panels respectively and a pair of side end flaps hingedly connected to the first and second side wall panels respectively, wherein each of said third segment ~~segments~~ comprises an upper portion in ~~the~~ a respective one of said upper end flaps and a lower portion in ~~the~~ a respective one of ~~said~~ the side end flaps that ~~is~~ are hinged to said one of the first and second side wall panels.

31. (Currently amended) A carton for a plurality of similar articles, comprising a plurality of panels connected together to form a substantially tubular structure, the plurality of panels comprising a bottom panel, a first side wall panel, a top panel and a second side wall panel, the carton further comprising opposed end closure walls for at least partially closing opposed ends of the tubular structure respectively, the carton further comprising a dispensing feature integrally formed with the carton, the dispensing feature being defined by an endless tear line which comprises a first segment extending completely across the top panel between the opposed ends of the tubular structure, a second segment extending completely across one of the first and second side wall panels between the opposed ends of the tubular structure and a third segment extending in each

of the opposed end closure walls between the first and second segments, the dispensing feature providing an article access opening when removed from the carton, the dispensing feature providing an article retainer when removed from the carton, wherein the dispensing feature comprises a removable portion defined by the first, second and third segments, the first segment extending along a tubular axis of the tubular structure, the second segment extending along the tubular axis, and the third segments interconnect the first and second segments to form the endless tear line, wherein each of said end closure walls includes a pair of upper and lower end flaps hingedly connected to the top and bottom panels respectively and a pair of side end flaps hingedly connected to the first and second side wall panels respectively, wherein each of said third segments comprises an upper portion in a respective one of said upper end flaps and a lower portion in a respective one of the side end flaps that are hinged to said one of the first and second side wall panels. The carton of claim 30 wherein each of said third segment segments further comprises an intermediate portion in the a respective one of said lower end flaps and wherein each of the intermediate portion portions interconnects said upper and lower portions of a respective one of the end closure walls.

32. (Currently amended) A carton for a plurality of similar articles, comprising a plurality of panels connected together to form a substantially tubular structure, the plurality of panels comprising a bottom panel, a first side wall panel, a top panel and a second side wall panel, the carton further comprising opposed end closure walls for at least partially closing opposed ends of the tubular structure respectively, the carton further comprising a dispensing feature integrally formed with the carton, the dispensing feature being defined by an endless tear line which comprises a first segment extending completely across the top panel between the opposed ends of the tubular structure, a second segment extending completely across one of the first and second side wall panels between the opposed ends of the tubular structure and a third segment extending in each of the opposed end closure walls between the first and second segments, the dispensing feature providing an article access opening when removed from the carton, the dispensing feature providing an article retainer when removed from the carton, wherein the

dispensing feature comprises a removable portion defined by the first, second and third segments, the first segment extending along a tubular axis of the tubular structure, the second segment extending along the tubular axis, and the third segments interconnect the first and second segments to form the endless tear line, wherein each of said end closure walls includes a pair of upper and lower end flaps hingedly connected to the top and bottom panels respectively and a pair of side end flaps hingedly connected to the first and second side wall panels respectively, wherein each of said third segments comprises an upper portion in a respective one of said upper end flaps and a lower portion in a respective one of the side end flaps that are hinged to said one of the first and second side wall panels. ~~The carton of claim 30 wherein a part of said first segment defines a tear initiation tab, and wherein each of said third segment~~segments extends downwardly from the top wall panel away from said one of the first and second side wall panels so that an upper portion of each of said third segments adjoining the top wall panel is disposed at an obtuse angle with respect to said first segment a hinged connection between the top panel and a respective one of the upper end flaps.

33. (Canceled)

34. (New) A blank for forming a carton, comprising a plurality of panels hingedly connected together in series, the plurality of panels forming a tubular structure when the blank is erected into a carton, the plurality of panels including a top panel, a bottom panel and a pair of first and second side wall panels, the blank further comprising a pair of upper end flaps hingedly connected to opposed ends of the top panel respectively, a pair of lower end flaps hingedly connected to opposed ends of the bottom panel respectively, and a pair of side end flaps hingedly connected to opposed ends of each of the first and second side wall panels respectively, the blank further comprising a plurality of tear line segments comprising a first segment extending completely across the top panel between the opposed ends of the top panel, a second segment extending completely across the first side wall panel between the opposed ends of the first side wall panel, and a pair of third segments, the third segments comprising a pair of upper portions extending across the

upper end flaps respectively, a pair of lower portions extending across the side end flaps of the first side wall panel respectively, and a pair of intermediate portions extending across the lower end flaps respectively, the intermediate portions are positioned and configured such that each of the intermediate portions interconnects a respective one of the upper portions and a respective one of the lower portions when the blank is erected into a carton.

35. (New) The blank of claim 34 wherein the each of the intermediate portions is substantially V-shaped.

36. (New) The blank of claim 34 wherein each of the lower end flaps has a free end edge opposing a hinged connection between the bottom panel and the each lower end flap and a pair of side edges extending from the free end edge toward the hinged connection, and wherein the each of the intermediate portions extends from the free end edge of a respective one of the lower end flaps to one of the side edges of the respective lower end flap.